

My dear Gray -

New York - 23<sup>rd</sup> Decr/48.

Your several letters of 5 Inst. & "wed." are before me, & I proceed to notice their contents where needful. First, as to your penitence, I see the laugh but ill-concealed in the expression of it, & it is well that your pardon had "passed the great seal" before the arrival of your letter - Now, as to accounts - Your first mem. I find, as follows,

30 rms. wh. paper, 557 lbs. net, @ 14¢. —	\$78. —	
less, dis <sup>t</sup> 5% for Cash —	3.90	
	<u>74.10</u>	
2 Packing cases —	1.50	75.60

6 reams Manila (Hollingsworth) paper say "the genus covers 11 cts. p <sup>r</sup> lb. w <sup>o</sup> ft. 47° p <sup>r</sup> ream <u>net</u> the 5% being deducted 4 1/2% x 6 "	28.20
	<u>103.80</u>

from which, in a p<sup>t</sup>, you desire me to deduct — 1.20

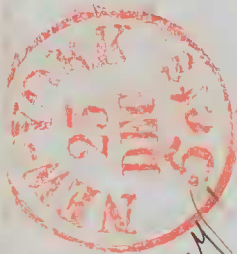
leaving, the amt. I remitted you — \$102.60

Unless, therefore Hollingsworth, has allowed a further deduction (as dis<sup>t</sup> on the 10 cts. p<sup>r</sup> lb. ?) it does not appear to me that you owe me the 120¢ credited to me in your last statement, nor does it seem the most ready way of receiving the freight you paid on my package of labels, to deduct the amt. from what I had to remit to you — I therefore return enclose your mem. & \$6 — (instead of \$4) which according to my views of the affair is the sum due to you; & as I suspect you are more of a botanist & than a book-keeper, I incline to believe my version will turn out correct. The labels I like well, & think them quite neat. I should myself have selected the type of the size of the specific Char. in your "man." which is rather larger - but I am well content to defer this matter of taste to your opinion - partly, because I am growing dim-sighted

& am apt to prefer larger type than you would require, & still more because I think your taste & judgment very good in such matters. But now I have another "crow to pluck" with you. Why, in the name of conscience, did you not let your Stationer cut them up, as we arranged, instead of hewing out your own portion? Whether you effected the operation with a hatchet, or garden-hoe, I know not, but, certainly, it has been done with such an amusing disregard of every thing like straight lines, that of my remaining labels, the 6 "blutting" or your vigorous carving, are, in each sheet, "shorn of their fair proportions" - & wasted. Now is this all you have, I find, in many instances (no less than 40 sheets!) backed out the wrong side of the paper (!) sending me between 13 & 14 dozen of your labels, & retaining, of course, a similar number of mine! I will send yours on, in some one of Torrey's packages; & unless mine are estrayed, you can lay them by, for some conveyance - as they are useful to you, & altho' to be sure, not very costly, yet worth preserving. Certainly, you are the man to "get along" with things - but there are cases in which "most haste is the worst speed" - You ask about the glue, or cement, rather, which our friend Torrey has contrived, & which I like very much. It does not crack off the paper, like glue, nor does it set so soon - two very great points. I have only fastened down my Carices & S. psyllaph. - Vignea. which I think good tests, as they are very troublesome, & apt to start up, especially where the papers are very full, as mine are. This, also, requires the slowly setting fluid, as it takes time to plan out the position of the specimens, to make most room - especially, to a gentleman who likes every thing neat, & "just so". Certainly, I recommend you strongly, our friend F's cement when you fasten your grapes & Cyp<sup>r</sup>. - I have done but little, & you will be sorry to learn that I have had some very sick days, besides

considerable worry & vexation. I observe what you say, as to the disposition of the paper to cockle, & will only open it as I want it. In other respects, I like it well. & think it remarkably cheap. (notwithstanding my scoldings, which you richly deserved - I put it to you, in foro conscientiae, whether you did not.) I feel very greatly indebted to your kindness, in the matter. - By the way, do not forget, that you are reserving for me one of the bundles (2 reams) of Hollingsworth's paper, which I shall need some time or another, if I live - but, in the mean time, as my space is so limited, I would rather pay "storage & interest" by leaving it with you - I saw, 2 days ago, in the newspaper that an election had been held for the Prof. of Chem. at the Free School, when the nominees were Dr. G. F. & a Mr. Ellet. The first received 24 votes, & was elected our friend had only 6! & Ellet none. However, the salary was stated at only \$800, & not \$1500, as I supposed - You & I both repeat, I know, that our friend's name was ever presented - I thank you much, for the few spec<sup>ies</sup> accompanying the labels, also for the Gendler sheets, which are both "useful & ornamental" - You may refer, in (Malvaceae) to Vol. 2 of Gen. illust. t. 217. 218. 222. - Is this correct? Do you mean the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vol. to over-run 200 plates, to that extent? - I hope you had no difficulty in making your arrangements for Prague. When I left Boston, I confidently expected to "lend a hand" in a small way; but a most unexpected "call for the absorption of capital" not merely "used me up"; but compelled me to trench pro-tem. upon the funds of others - In addition to this, I had to convert a small treasury note, which I held, in expectation of an advance in price, just a week before, the anticipated rise (of 4%) took place - But enough of this - It is better to be lucky than rich, says the proverb, but it is disagreeable, even to disgust - to be neither the one nor the other! Burckley's proposition is fine, & as you say, characteristic - of course you avail yourself of it, & are "doing the needful" at Washington. I am most grieved to hear, that your dear wife is suffering from a further painful annoyance - Pray present my best love to her

You do not speak of her general health, in either of your 2 last letters - Please to do so in your next - We have had hideous weather for the past week - Yesterday it snowed all day, but froze hard at night, & the sun is now shining, & I hear the sleigh bells ringing merrily along - Give my regards to Miss Eliza, if still with you - I have not seen her good father, in the past week - indeed, I have been too unwell to face the inclement weather out of doors - Once again, accept my thanks for your trouble in my (botanical) matters, I believe me, My dear Gray, Very Affly Yrs. D.



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